

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3 -----x

3 DAVID EKUKPE,

4 Plaintiff,

5 v.

16 CV 5412 (AT)

6 CITY OF NEW YORK,
7 PO JUAN SANTIAGO,
PO OSVALDO HERNANDEZ,
SGT JOHN FERRARA,

8 Conference

9 Defendants.
10 -----x

11 New York, N.Y.
June 14, 2018
10:45 a.m.

12 Before:

13 HON. ANALISA TORRES

14 District Judge

19 APPEARANCES

21 JOHN E. KNUDSEN
22 Attorney for Plaintiff

23 SIVIN & MILLER LLP
24 Attorneys for Plaintiff
BY: CLELIA DOUYON

1 APPEARANCES

2 ZACHARY W. CARTER

3 Corporation Counsel for the City of New York
4 Attorney for Defendants defendants City of New York and
Hernandez

5 KYLE C. BRUNO

6 Assistant Corporation Counsel

7 WORTH LONGWORTH & LONDON LLP

8 BY: Attorneys for Defendant Santiago

9 MITCHELL GARBER

10 DOUGLAS DABARBERA

11 THE QUINN LAW FIRM PLLC

12 BY: Attorneys for Defendant Ferrara

13 ANDREW C. QUINN

14 ANTHONY DIFIORE

15 STEVEN J. BUSHNELL

1 (Case called)

2 THE COURT: We are here for a final pretrial
3 conference. Defendants the City of New York and Officer
4 Osvaldo Hernandez have settlement their claims with plaintiff.
5 Plaintiff's claims against Officer Juan Santiago and Officer
6 Ferrara remain for trial. Santiago and Ferrara, whom I will
7 refer to as the "co-defendants," have also brought cross-claims
8 against the city.

9 I will now address the parties' motions in limine and
10 the city defendants motion to dismiss the co-defendants'
11 cross-claims. I will begin with the city's motion to dismiss.

12 The city moves to dismiss co-defendants' cross-claims
13 for reimbursement for legal expenses accrued in defending this
14 action and for prospective indemnification in the event that
15 either co-defendant is found liable to plaintiff.

16 Co-defendants' cross-claims for reimbursement of legal
17 expenses must be dismissed because they both failed to file a
18 notice of claim. These claims arise under section 50-k(2) of
19 the New York General Municipal Law. In order to maintain an
20 action against the city under section 50-k, a party must file a
21 notice of claim within 90 days of the cause of action arising
22 or otherwise file for leave to file a late notice of claim
23 within one year and 90 days of the cause of action arising.
24 New York General Municipal Law sections 50-e and 50-k(6).

25 Co-defendants' representation claims arose in December

1 2016, when the city notified them that it would not represent
2 them in this action. There is no dispute that both
3 co-defendants failed to file a notice of claim within the
4 required time period after this notification. They argue
5 nonetheless that they unsubstantially complied with the notice
6 of claim requirement because their answer and cross-claims,
7 filed within 90 days of the city's decision not to represent
8 them, provided the forms of notice that must be contained in a
9 notice of claim.

10 This argument misconstrues the notice of claim
11 requirement, which is a condition precedent to the commencement
12 of a lawsuit. New York General Municipal Law section 50-e(1).
13 The filing of cross-claims cannot, therefore, substitute for
14 the filing of a notice of claim. Accordingly, the city's
15 motion to dismiss co-defendants' claims for reimbursement of
16 legal expenses is granted.

17 I will now address co-defendants' indemnification
18 claims. The city moves to dismiss co-defendants'
19 indemnification cross-claims on the grounds that the Court
20 should decline to retain supplemental jurisdiction over them.
21 In the alternative, the city requests that the Court decide
22 these claims as a matter of law after the conclusion of trial.

23 First, the motion to dismiss is denied. The city does
24 not contend that the Court lacks supplemental jurisdiction,
25 only that the Court should decline it exercise it in its

1 discretion. The Court shall retain supplemental jurisdiction
2 over the indemnification cross-claims because they arise from
3 the same nucleus of operative facts as plaintiff's federal
4 claims, that is, co-defendants' conduct during the arrest and
5 prosecution of the plaintiff.

6 Second, in the event that either co-defendant is found
7 liable at trial, the Court shall decide indemnification claims
8 as a matter of law after the conclusion of trial.

9 Co-defendants agree to this approach, and a number of courts in
10 this circuit have adopted it in cases involving indemnification
11 claims under section 50-k of the General Municipal Law.

12 Thus, if either co-defendant is found liable at trial,
13 the city will be given a reasonable opportunity, after
14 reviewing the trial evidence, to make a decision as to
15 indemnification. If the city declines to indemnify, the
16 parties will be directed to brief the issue. Accordingly, the
17 city's request is granted.

18 Finally, the city requests to be excused from
19 participating in the trial. The only claims that remain
20 against it are co-defendants' indemnification cross-claims,
21 which, as stated above, will not be adjudicated at trial.
22 Accordingly, the city's request to be excused from
23 participating in the trial is granted.

24 I will now address the parties' motions in limine
25 begin with plaintiff's.

1 Plaintiff brings two motions. First, plaintiff seeks
2 to preclude co-defendants from introducing evidence of his
3 youthful offender adjudication for robbery and criminal
4 conviction for attempted robbery, requesting that the Court
5 limit co-defendants to mentioning only the fact of the YO
6 adjudication and conviction, that they were also felonies, and
7 the sentence imposed at the time spent in custody. The motion
8 is granted.

9 Co-defendants seek to introduce evidence of the YO
10 adjudication and conviction for two purposes: impeachment and
11 proof of damages. First, I conclude that neither is admissible
12 for impeachment purposes under federal rule of evidence 609(d).
13 The YO adjudication is categorically inadmissible to impeach
14 plaintiff's character for truthfulness. Admissibility of the
15 conviction is governed by federal rule of evidence 609(a)(1)
16 and (a)(2).

17 Under rule 609(a)(2), a prior conviction is admissible
18 for impeachment purposes if establishing the elements of the
19 crime require proving a dishonest act or false statement.
20 Attempted robbery is not such a crime and is therefore not
21 admissible under rule 609(a)(2).

22 Rule 609(a)(1) permits the introduction of prior
23 felony convictions for impeachment purposes so long as the
24 prejudice or confusion caused by such introduction does not
25 substantially outweigh the probative value under rule 403. A

1 district court has broad discretion in this analysis.

2 I conclude that the prejudicial effect of admitting
3 the conviction for impeachment purposes would substantially
4 outweigh its probative value. As one court in this circuit
5 recently explained, robbery is a crime of violence that has
6 "little bearing on truthfulness." Dougherty v. County of
7 Suffolk, 13 CV 6493, 2018 WL 1902336, at *5 (E.D.N.Y. April 20,
8 2018).

9 Conversely, there is a real danger that the jury could
10 misuse this evidence as prior bad act evidence suggesting a
11 propensity to flout the law from an incident such as the one at
12 issue in this case, an impermissible use of evidence under
13 federal rule of evidence 404. Accordingly, plaintiff's motion
14 to exclude the YO adjudication and criminal conviction for
15 impeachment purposes is granted.

16 Both plaintiff and co-defendants acknowledge, however,
17 that the prior adjudication and conviction are admissible with
18 respect to damages. Specifically, plaintiff contends that his
19 fear of the police and inability to interact with the police
20 are attributable to the incidents at issue in this litigation.
21 Co-defendants seek to prove that his fear is instead the result
22 of his interactions with law enforcement in connection with his
23 prior YO adjudication and conviction. Plaintiff does not
24 dispute the admissibility of the evidence for this purpose.

25 However, evidence of the nature and circumstances of

1 the offenses has the potential to prejudice the jury as prior
2 bad act evidence. Accordingly, plaintiff's motion to limit the
3 admissibility of the YO adjudication and criminal conviction to
4 the fact that they were felonies, the sentence imposed, and the
5 sometime spent in custody is granted. In other words,
6 co-defendants may ask plaintiff the following specifics
7 questions: Isn't it true that you have a YO adjudication for a
8 felony, and isn't it true that you were convicted of a felony?

9 Plaintiff's second motion in limine seeks to exclude
10 two of Sergeant Ferrara's witnesses who were not identified in
11 his rule 26 disclosures or his responses to plaintiff's rule 33
12 interrogatories requesting the identity of witnesses. The
13 witnesses are Lieutenant Ty Tucker, the supervising officer on
14 the scene of the arrest, and Officer Anthony Garcia-Rivas,
15 another officer on the scene. Plaintiff asserts that both
16 witnesses were disclosed to him on April 26, 2018, one day
17 before submission of the joint pretrial order.

18 Under federal rule of civil procedure 37(c)(1), a
19 party that fails to disclose a witness in accordance with rules
20 26(a) and 26(e) may not use that witness at trial unless the
21 failure to disclose was substantially justified or harmless.
22 If the failure to disclose was neither substantially justified
23 nor harmless, a court may still permit the witness to testify
24 in its discretion based on four factors:

25 (1) The parties' explanation for the failure to comply

1 with the disclosure requirement;

2 (2) The importance of the testimony of the precluded
3 witness;

4 (3) The prejudice suffered by the opposing party as a
5 result of having to prepare to meet the new testimony; and

6 (4) The possibility of a continuance.

7 Patterson v. Balsamico, 440 F.3d 104, 117 (2d Cir.
8 2006).

9 Ferrara has not established that his failure to
10 disclose was substantially justified or harmless. However, I
11 conclude in my discretion that both witnesses may testify.
12 Although Ferrara has failed to adequately explain the failure
13 to disclose, the testimony of two additional officers who were
14 on the scene will add significant value as eyewitness accounts
15 of the incident.

16 Moreover, any prejudice suffered by plaintiff is
17 mitigated by the fact that their testimony will concern the
18 incident at the heart of this case, about which plaintiff has
19 been gathering evidence throughout discovery. Finally, given
20 that we are now on the eve of trial, a continuance is not
21 sensible. Accordingly, plaintiff's motion to exclude those
22 witnesses is denied.

23 I will now address Sergeant Ferrara's motions in
24 limine.

25 Sergeant Ferrara brings eight motions in limine.

1 First, he moves to bifurcate the damages and liability phases
2 of the trial because evidence of damages will prejudice the
3 jurors, causing them to sympathize with plaintiff and make them
4 unable to evaluate the evidence effectively.

5 Bifurcation may be ordered in the Court's discretion
6 under federal rule of civil procedure 42(b) to avoid prejudice.
7 Beyond his conclusory assertion of prejudice, Ferrara makes no
8 showing that the jury will be able to evaluate liability
9 objectively if evidence of plaintiff's damages is also
10 presented at trial. Accordingly, his motion to bifurcate the
11 liability and damages phases of the trial is denied.

12 Second, Sergeant Ferrara moves to preclude plaintiff
13 from introducing records prepared by the NYPD, CCRB, IAB, and
14 DAO in connection with his personnel and disciplinary history,
15 including nine documents on plaintiff's exhibit list in the
16 pretrial order. Ferrara claims that these documents are
17 irrelevant and prejudicial but does not offer specific
18 objections to each.

19 The first two records that Ferrara moves to preclude
20 are the CCRB file and district attorney file with respect to
21 the incidents at issue in this litigation. These documents are
22 Plaintiff's Exhibits 15 and 16. The files contain both factual
23 material and conclusions about whether co-defendants' conduct
24 during the incident was unlawful.

25 The factual material is admissible so long as it is

1 not excludable under another evidentiary rule, such as the
2 prohibition against hearsay. However, the conclusions of the
3 NYPD, CCRB, IAB, and DAO about issues to be decided by the jury
4 in this case, such as whether Ferrara falsely arrested
5 plaintiff, have the potential to both confuse and prejudice the
6 jurors and are not admissible with respect to co-defendants'
7 liability.

8 Plaintiff, however, argues that the CCRB's conclusion
9 that Ferrara made a false arrest should be admissible on the
10 issue of punitive damages because the NYPD never ultimately
11 disciplined him for this conduct. I agree. One of the core
12 purposes of punitive damages is to deter future misconduct.
13 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company v. Campbell, 53,
14 U.S. 408, 413 (2003).

15 The fact that the CCRB substantiated allegations
16 against Ferrara in connection with the events at issue in this
17 case but he was never disciplined by the NYPD is highly
18 relevant to whether punitive damages are necessary to deter
19 future misconduct.

20 Therefore, if the jury is asked to address punitive
21 damages, plaintiff shall be entitled to introduce evidence that
22 CCRB concluded that Ferrara made a false arrest. Accordingly,
23 I am ordering that the punitive damages phase of the trial,
24 both whether plaintiff is entitled to punitive damages and the
25 amount, shall be bifurcated from the liability and compensatory

1 damages phase of the trial.

2 The remaining seven references identified by Ferrara
3 are Plaintiff's Exhibits 18 through 24. They pertain to
4 Ferrara's personnel and disciplinary history at the NYPD. In
5 his opposition to Ferrara's motion, plaintiff focuses on the
6 admissibility of records pertaining to one particular incident
7 in which the CCRB substantiated claims that Ferrara stopped a
8 man named Mamadou Bah without legal cause, used offensive and
9 discourteous language, touched and pushed Mr. Bah, and
10 threatened to use force and arrest Mr. Bah without legal cause.
11 The CCRB and the IAB both concluded that Ferrara made false
12 statements to the CCRB and IAB during their investigation of
13 that incident.

14 I conclude that evidence of Ferrara's unlawful stop,
15 use of offensive language, and physical touching and threatened
16 use of force and arrest is not admissible because such conduct
17 does not implicate his truthfulness as a witness, but is
18 instead evidence of a prior bad act that would be used to show
19 propensity. Such evidence is not admissible under federal rule
20 of evidence 404 absent a common scheme or specific pattern
21 connecting him to the incident at issue here. Although the
22 conduct is broadly similar to that alleged here, it does not
23 reflect a unique scheme or specific pattern.

24 Conversely, I conclude that plaintiff may introduce
25 evidence that Ferrara made false statements during the IAB and

1 CCRB investigation for the purpose of impeaching his character
2 for truthfulness. Under federal rule of evidence 608(b),
3 plaintiff may ask Ferrara about the false statements on cross-
4 examination but may not introduce extrinsic evidence of them,
5 including the fact that the CCRB and IAB concluded that he made
6 a false statement.

7 In other words, plaintiff shall be permitted to ask
8 Ferrara whether he made false statements to the CCRB and IAB.
9 If Ferrara denies making such statements, plaintiff must accept
10 the answers and may not introduce evidence of the IAB's and
11 CCRB's conclusions.

12 Ferrara does not address why the remaining records,
13 which include Ferrara's performance evaluations and other
14 allegations of misconduct are inadmissible. I will not address
15 each performance evaluation and misconduct allegation
16 individually but will provide the parties with the following
17 framework to govern commission of these records.

18 First, evidence of unsubstantiated or unfounded CCRB
19 claims is not admissible because their potential to prejudice
20 the jury substantially outweighs their probative value.
21 Second, as noted above, conduct that does not go to Ferrara's
22 truthfulness as a witness but instead concerns prior bad acts
23 that would be used a propensity evidence are dismissible absent
24 a showing of common scheme or pattern. Third, plaintiff may
25 ask Ferrara about conduct that goes to Ferrara's truthfulness

1 as a witness and was not found to be unsubstantiated or
2 unfounded by the CCRB, but may not introduce extrinsic evidence
3 of such conduct.

4 Ferrara's third motion in limine seeks to preclude
5 plaintiff from introduce evidence of other lawsuits or
6 disciplinary complaints against him or any other officers who
7 will testify as witnesses. Ferrara fails to identify any
8 specific lawsuits or disciplinary records other than those
9 mentioned in his previous motion in limine. Other than Officer
10 Santiago, whose records I'm about to address, plaintiff's
11 exhibits do not contain additional legal or disciplinary
12 records implicating Ferrara or other officers who will
13 testimonial as witnesses.

14 Absent reference to specific records, I cannot make a
15 determination on this motion beyond the framework I have
16 already laid out: Unsubstantiated or unfounded CCRB claims are
17 inadmissible; misconduct allegations that do not go to an
18 officer's character or truthfulness are inadmissible absent a
19 common scheme; and plaintiff may ask about allegations of
20 misconduct that go to an officer 's character for truthfulness
21 on cross-examination.

22 Fourth, Ferrara moves to preclude plaintiff from
23 requesting a specific dollar amount of damages at trial. The
24 motion is denied. However, plaintiff shall only request a
25 specific dollar amount during closing arguments.

1 Fifth, Ferrara moves to preclude plaintiff from
2 introducing a witness who was not included in plaintiff's rule
3 26 disclosures, Jeffrey Ajarij, a friend of plaintiff who was
4 on the stoop with him when he was arrested.

5 Plaintiff has made no showing that his failure to
6 disclose Ajarij was substantially justified or harmless.
7 However, Ajarij appeared in discovery given to co-defendants.
8 He will testify about the events leading to the plaintiff's
9 arrest, which is at the center of this litigation.

10 Ajarij's testimony will therefore have significant
11 evidentiary value. Any prejudice suffered by co-defendants is
12 mitigated by fact that they are familiar with the events about
13 which Ajarij will testify. In addition, as noted earlier, a
14 continuance is not sensible at the time. Accordingly,
15 Ferrara's motion to exclude Ajarij is denied.

16 Sixth, Ferrara moves to preclude nonparty witnesses
17 from testifying about their "characterizations, impressions,
18 and opinions." This motion is meritless and is denied. As
19 plaintiff points out, lay witnesses may testify about their
20 impressions or opinions as set forth in federal rule of
21 evidence 701.

22 Seventh, Ferrara moves to preclude plaintiff from
23 introducing evidence of his "post-shooting employment status."
24 As an initial matter, Ferrara does not identify the shooting he
25 is referring to or plaintiff's current employment status.

1 Ferrara has not therefore shown that the relevance of this
2 information would be substantially outweighed by undue
3 prejudice, particularly because one's employment status is a
4 basic introductory question regularly asked of witnesses.
5 Accordingly, this motion is denied.

6 Eighth, and finally, Ferrara moves to preclude
7 plaintiff from arguing that Ferrara should have "responded
8 differently" during the incident or "used less force." This
9 motion is also denied. Plaintiff's task at trial will be in no
10 small part to prove exactly what Ferrara seeks to preclude him
11 from arguing. To the extent that Ferrara is concerned that
12 period of will argue an improper legal standard for excessive
13 force to the jury, I will instruct the jury on the proper legal
14 standard at the conclusion of trial.

15 I will now address Officer Santiago's motions in
16 limine. Santiago brings four motions in limine. The first
17 motion seeks to preclude plaintiff from introducing the CCRB
18 file with respect to the incident at issue in this case. The
19 same framework I applied to the CCRB file on Ferrara's motion
20 shall apply here.

21 First, factual material in the file is admissible so
22 long as it is not excludable under another evidentiary rule.
23 Second, the CCRB's conclusions about issues to be decided by
24 the jury in this case, such as whether Santiago made a false
25 arrest or false statement, are inadmissible during the

1 liability and compensatory damages phase of the trial but are
2 admissible during the punitive damages phase of the trial.

3 Plaintiff has raised one additional issue here,
4 however, that was not raised in connection with Ferrara's
5 motion. Plaintiff seeks to admit evidence that the CCRB
6 determined that Santiago made a false statement on arrest
7 paperwork in this case to impeach his character for
8 truthfulness during the liability and compensatory damages
9 phase of the trial.

10 Admission of evidence that Santiago made a false
11 statement in connection with this case would be unduly
12 prejudicial for the reasons already stated. However, it is a
13 prior act that is probative of untruthfulness. To avoid the
14 prejudicial effect of this evidence, plaintiff may ask Santiago
15 during the liability and compensatory damages phase of the
16 trial if Santiago has ever made a false statement in arrest
17 paperwork. But plaintiff may not suggest or infer that the
18 CCRB concluded that Santiago made a false statement in
19 connection with the events at issue in this litigation until
20 the punitive damages phase of the trial.

21 Officer Santiago's second motion seeks to preclude
22 plaintiff from introducing evidence of other allegations of
23 misconduct against him. This motion appears to refer to
24 Plaintiff's Exhibits 25 and 26, which are Santiago's central
25 personnel index file and his CCRB history. Santiago also

1 refers specifically to a pending CCRB claim on which the CCRB
2 has not yet made a determination.

3 As I held in connection with Sergeant Ferrara's motion
4 in limine concerning other misconduct allegations,
5 unsubstantiated CCRB claims are inadmissible because their
6 prejudicial effect substantially outweighs their probative
7 value. The same is true about the pending claim because the
8 CCRB has yet to make a determination as to whether Santiago's
9 conduct was in fact improper or unlawful. The pending claim is
10 therefore inadmissible.

11 Except for the substantiated claims that Santiago made
12 a false arrest and false statement in this case, all but one of
13 the other CCRB complaints against Santiago are unsubstantiated.
14 They, too, are inadmissible.

15 The remaining complaint, which is for failure to
16 prepare a memo book entry, led to a disposition of "other
17 misconduct." Neither party explains what this disposition
18 means. Without a showing that this incident is probative of
19 character for untruthfulness, it is inadmissible. Accordingly,
20 Santiago's motion to exclude evidence of the other allegations
21 of misconduct against him is granted.

22 Santiago's third motion in limine seeks to bifurcate
23 his cross-claims from the trial on plaintiff's claims. This
24 motion is mooted by my ruling on the city's motion to dismiss.
25 Santiago's indemnification claim will be decided by the Court

1 as a matter of law after the conclusion of trial if the jury
2 finds him to be liable.

3 Santiago's fourth and final motion in limine seeks to
4 bifurcate the calculation of punitive damages from the
5 remainder of the trial. This motion is mooted by my earlier
6 decision to bifurcate the punitive damages phase of trial, both
7 whether punitive damages are appropriate and their calculation.

8 During the punitive damages phase, co-defendants may
9 introduce evidence of their limited financial resources.
10 Plaintiff may also introduce evidence of the possibility of
11 indemnification, but it is cautioned not to speculate about the
12 likelihood of indemnification.

13 In the joint pretrial order, the parties each object
14 to the introduction of a number of exhibits that are not
15 addressed in their motions in limine. I will now ask the
16 parties to address these objections, beginning with defendants'
17 objection to Plaintiff's Exhibit 10, the criminal court
18 complaint. Counsel for Officer Santiago, would you state your
19 objection.

20 MR. LaBARBERA: Your Honor, with respect to that
21 particular exhibit, we will withdraw that objection.

22 THE COURT: Then let us go on to 11. I have the same
23 question.

24 MR. GARBER: May I address your Honor? With regard to
25 the criminal court file itself, the file in its totality

1 potentially contains information that is not relevant. The
2 actual tickler from the criminal court file that indicates the
3 specific dates would be relevant because of the malicious
4 prosecution claim in terms of how many times the plaintiff had
5 to go back to court, certainly would be something which would
6 be admissible.

7 I wouldn't object on behalf of Officer Santiago to
8 that. But just putting in other unspecified material from that
9 criminal court file --

10 THE COURT: You need to identify that material. Don't
11 ask for some sort of a general exclusion. Go through it and do
12 your work. Having spent many hours filling out those ticklers,
13 I can tell you that it's very routine information. I don't see
14 what could possibly be objectionable.

15 With respect to the CCRB file, 15, I have already
16 addressed that. Also with respect to 16, the district
17 attorney's file, obviously legal conclusions about the claims
18 in this case are inadmissible, but the factual material is
19 admissible. If you are looking to exclude something specific,
20 you have got to come back to me. I do not want this at the eve
21 of trial.

22 MR. GARBER: Yes, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: So I want this by tomorrow.

24 MR. GARBER: Understood.

25 THE COURT: I do not want to waste time in the middle

1 of trial for you filtering through exhibits because you haven't
2 done it beforehand.

3 Number 18, the Ferrara central personnel index, I
4 think I already addressed that. I will state again that prior
5 bad acts on propensity are potentially obviously inadmissible,
6 unsubstantiated claims inadmissible. But with respect to
7 impeachment material for untruthfulness purposes, they would be
8 admissible.

9 I don't want to be in a situation where the file is
10 pulled out during the trial and there is some general objection
11 and you scurry to the front and you can't even find what you
12 are objecting to. Don't do that. I will not tolerate that.

13 With respect to 19, the Ferrara performance monitoring
14 unit, it's essentially the same.

15 With respect to number 20, Ferrara's CCRB history, the
16 same.

17 With respect to 21, the complaint report, it's not
18 admissible. It's basically propensity evidence.

19 With respect to 22, the IAB charges and specs
20 regarding Bah, to the extent that the false statement can be
21 impeachment material, it will be handled in the way that I have
22 already explained. And no extrinsic evidence, again, will be
23 able to be elicited.

24 Number 23, the same.

25 24, the same.

1 25, again, I will not permit propensity evidence or
2 unsubstantiated claims. But to the extent that there is
3 material that goes to truthfulness, I will permit it.

4 The same for number 26, Santiago's CCRB history.

5 What I suggest is that you sit down together and go
6 through these exhibits line by line so that there are no
7 surprises or lengthy pauses during trial.

8 Now we are going to go to Santiago's exhibits. A, the
9 arrest report. I don't understand plaintiff's objection.

10 MR. KNUDSEN: Technically, it is going to be coming
11 into evidence, so we can withdraw that.

12 THE COURT: What about the arrest report supplement.
13 I assume the same applies.

14 MR. KNUDSEN: Right. Anything written by the
15 defendants we would seek to introduce. Typically, they would
16 have to put in a business record exception to do that. We
17 expect that is going to happen. If they want to do it on their
18 case in chief for us, it would be for impeachment purposes and
19 an admission; I could get it in that way.

20 My practice is typically anything that is a hearsay
21 admission, that doesn't mean we are going to object on that
22 basis at trial. It is more prospective. That I don't want to
23 lose my ability to object at trial that it is not being put in
24 for a proper purpose.

25 THE COURT: Examine the document. Again, I do not

1 want to be standing at the bench going through line by line
2 because you haven't done that beforehand.

3 MR. KNUDSEN: Exactly, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Be prepared.

5 MR. KNUDSEN: We will. Thank you.

6 THE COURT: With respect to the Hernandez memo book
7 entry, C, what is the objection?

8 MR. KNUDSEN: It would be similar. All these hearsay
9 objections up until F would be the same thing. These are all
10 documents written by one of the defendants or co-defendants.
11 And Hernandez is not in the case anymore as a defendant.

12 F, I'm not sure who wrote that. I would say it is a
13 hearsay objection continuing because it does seek to
14 characterize what the plaintiff has said. I'm not sure who
15 created what is in here. There may be hearsay within hearsay
16 exceptions for that. If they want to seek to introduce that
17 and explain that process, then that would have to happen.

18 THE COURT: You need to work it out amongst
19 yourselves.

20 MR. KNUDSEN: Okay. And the criminal court complaint,
21 that will come in since it is the disposition of objections.

22 On the 50(h) hearing, there has been no designation,
23 but they are statements of the plaintiff that will come in. My
24 objection if it is misleading or confusing or bolstering. I
25 wouldn't object as to an admission, but maybe it would be

1 relevance, something along those lines. Without knowing
2 exactly, since there was no designation, it is hard to specify
3 what an objection would be without designating specific
4 portions.

5 In general, it would be admissible as an admission
6 unless there is another objection. That is why we reserved
7 those other objections. Similar to the notice of claim, it
8 would be misleading or confusion based upon the use. We don't
9 know the use. We put that in as a prospective objection to the
10 extent it's being mischaracterized or something like that.

11 For the memo book entry, presumably, if they seek to
12 put it in themselves, it would have to be through a hearsay
13 exception.

14 The surveillance video there is no objection to.

15 The Bronx DAO statement notice, when I looked at
16 Hernandez 64, it didn't seem to be whatever a Bronx DA or
17 statement notice is. I don't know what that document is.

18 THE COURT: Are you saying you don't know what a
19 statement notice is?

20 MR. KNUDSEN: I don't know what a statement notice is,
21 but 64 doesn't look like a statement notice.

22 MR. LaBARBERA: Your Honor, the city made two
23 productions that had similar numbers. In other words, the
24 second production didn't start with numbers consecutive to the
25 first production. So the defendants' Bates stamps, there are

1 essentially two documents that say defendant Hernandez number
2 64. One is from one date, one is from a subsequent date. That
3 particular exhibit came from the second production. If you are
4 looking at the first production --

5 MR. KNUDSEN: The document we have is a negative
6 Sprint report for 64. I'll have to check the other document.

7 THE COURT: The statement notice would merely be what
8 the prosecution claims that the criminal defendant, your
9 client, said.

10 MR. KNUDSEN: Yes. That's what I thought. But that's
11 not what this was. I did think I found the document they
12 intended to put as the Bates stamp there. Again, that could be
13 hearsay because it is double hearsay. It not necessarily can
14 be used as an admission for him unless people come in and
15 verify it or plaintiff admitted. But he is going to dispute
16 what is in that document.

17 THE COURT: You're saying he is going to dispute
18 alleged statements?

19 MR. KNUDSEN: Yes. I'm not sure if I'm going to
20 object to that at trial yet. That's why I put the objection
21 in, to preserve it. I put the objection in to this document
22 because it wasn't a DAO statement notice, the ones that they
23 had Bates stamped. Having found that document and looked at
24 it, I'm not sure we would object at trial if they seek to move
25 it in.

THE COURT: Going to Ferrara's exhibits, the arrest report.

MR. KNUDSEN: They are all duplicative. They are the same exhibits essentially.

THE COURT: The trial will begin this Monday. During jury selection and deliberations, court will be in session from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a break from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. During the evidentiary portion of the trial, court will be in session from 9:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. with a break from 11:15 to 11:45. I will have snacks for the jurors before 9 o'clock and during the break.

12 I have been informed by the jury department that on
13 Monday jurors will not be available until 10:30. So you don't
14 have to get here at 9:00. You can show up at 10:30.

15 Are there other issues that the parties would like to
16 address?

17 MR. KNUDSEN: I want to object to the special
18 interrogatories that they forwarded yesterday.

19 THE COURT: I am not ready to talk about the special
20 interrogatories. We'll do that anon. Anything else?

21 MR. GARBER: Thank you, your Honor. We don't have any
22 further application.

23 THE COURT: See you on Monday at 10:30.

24 || (Adjourned)